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*Number of deaths from influenza in Ninety-six Great Towns of England and Wales.*

| Week ended—  | Deaths. | Week ended—  | Deaths. | Week ended—  | Deaths. | Week ended—  | Deaths. |
|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|
| <b>1918</b>  |         | <b>1919</b>  |         | <b>1920</b>  |         | <b>1921</b>  |         |
| Oct. 12..... | 647     | Oct. 11..... | 39      | Oct. 9.....  | 33      | Oct. 15..... | 49      |
| Oct. 19..... | 1,887   | Oct. 18..... | 57      | Oct. 16..... | 34      | Oct. 22..... | 46      |
| Oct. 26..... | 4,482   | Oct. 25..... | 71      | Oct. 23..... | 39      | Oct. 29..... | 30      |
| Nov. 2.....  | 7,412   | Nov. 1.....  | 71      | Oct. 30..... | 35      | Nov. 5.....  | 32      |
| Nov. 9.....  | 7,559   | Nov. 8.....  | 56      | Nov. 6.....  | 29      | Nov. 12..... | 44      |
| Nov. 16..... | 5,916   | Nov. 15..... | 74      | Nov. 13..... | 42      | Nov. 19..... | 59      |
| Nov. 23..... | 5,106   | Nov. 22..... | 79      | Nov. 20..... | 60      | Nov. 26..... | 80      |
| Nov. 30..... | 5,119   | Nov. 29..... | 63      | Nov. 27..... | 69      | Dec. 3.....  | 123     |
| Dec. 7.....  | 3,574   | Dec. 6.....  | 77      | Dec. 4.....  | 65      | Dec. 10..... | 149     |
| Dec. 14..... | 1,885   | Dec. 13..... | 81      | Dec. 11..... | 61      | Dec. 17..... | 212     |
| Dec. 21..... | 1,015   | Dec. 20..... | 64      | Dec. 18..... | 75      | Dec. 24..... | 237     |
| Dec. 28..... | 581     | Dec. 27..... | 43      | Dec. 25..... | 81      | Dec. 31..... | 418     |
| <b>1919</b>  |         | <b>1920</b>  |         | <b>1921</b>  |         | <b>1922</b>  |         |
| Jan. 4.....  | 442     | Jan. 3.....  | 52      | Jan. 1.....  | 89      | Jan. 7.....  | 807     |
| Jan. 11..... | 379     | Jan. 10..... | 73      | Jan. 8.....  | 101     | Jan. 14..... | 1,240   |
| Jan. 18..... | 274     | Jan. 17..... | 62      | Jan. 15..... | 87      | Jan. 21..... | 1,404   |
| Jan. 25..... | 224     | Jan. 24..... | 85      | Jan. 22..... | 66      | Jan. 28..... | 1,419   |

**A HIGH DEATH RATE IN SCOTLAND.**

During the week ended January 21, 1922, 379 deaths from influenza were registered in sixteen principal towns of Scotland. The population of these towns collectively is given as 2,370,600. This gives an influenza death rate for the week, on an annual basis, of 8.33 per thousand population. One thousand nine hundred and thirty deaths from all causes were reported during the week, the crude death rate being 42.5 per thousand.

The Registrar General of Scotland, in the Weekly Return of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in the Principal Towns of Scotland (No. 3), says:

"The death rate for the week is 15.8 above that for the previous week, 22.3 above the mean of the rates for the three preceding weeks, and 25.9 above that for the corresponding week of last year. It is the highest Principal Town weekly death rate since that of the week ending 2nd March, 1895, which was 42.8. In the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 the highest corresponding death rate was 40.0, and occurred in the week ending 1st March, 1919.

"In the individual towns the death rate ranged from 55.6 in Glasgow, 50.9 in Coatbridge, and 48.7 in Kirkcaldy, to 11.6 in Ayr, 17.3 in Motherwell and Wishaw, and 17.6 in Clydebank. In Dundee it was 41.1, in Edinburgh 35.1, in Falkirk 34.4, in Paisley 33.7, in Perth 33.2, in Hamilton 33.0, in Greenock 31.2, in Kilmarnock 29.0, in Dunfermline 25.4, and in Aberdeen 23.0. Compared with the returns for the previous week, the rate for Coatbridge shows an increase of 28.4, Kilmarnock of 24.6, Glasgow of 20.7, Hamilton of 19.8, Paisley of 17.7, Greenock of 16.5, and Edinburgh of 16.0. The only rate less than in the previous week is that for Perth, which was 33.2, or 17.4 less.

"Deaths from the principal epidemic diseases \* \* \* numbered 150. They are 44 more than in the previous week, and are equal to an annual death rate from these causes of 3.3 per thousand. These deaths include 2 from enteric fever, 88 from measles, 4 from

scarlet fever, 34 from whooping cough, 13 from diphtheria, and 9 from the diarrhœas of childhood. Compared with the returns for the previous week, deaths from measles are 25 more, from whooping cough 14 more, from diphtheria 7 more, from scarlet fever 2 more, and from enteric fever 1 more, while those from the diarrhœas of childhood are 5 fewer.

"Deaths from influenza numbered 379. They are 227 more than in the previous week.

"Deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 681. They are 310 more than in the previous week.

"Deaths of children of less than one year old numbered 344, and those of persons of sixty-five and upward 497. The former are 133 more than in the previous week, and 203 more than in the corresponding week of last year. The latter are 152 more than in the previous week, and 271 more than in the corresponding week of last year."

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### DEATH RATES IN A GROUP OF INSURED PERSONS.

#### COMPARISON OF DEATH RATES FOR PRINCIPAL CAUSES, 1911-1921, AND NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 1921.

The following statements and tables are taken from the Statistical Bulletin of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. for January, 1922:

The death rate for 1921 among nearly 14,000,000 industrial policy-holders of the company in the United States and Canada was 853.8 per 100,000, the lowest rate recorded in the history of the company. It is 13.7 per cent lower than the rate for 1920, namely, 989.4 per 100,000, which was the lowest recorded up to that time. The 1921 death rate is 31.9 per cent lower than that for 1911. Using absolute figures representing deaths instead of rates, the low mortality record for 1921 means that 18,661 fewer deaths occurred among the policy-holders during 1921 than would have occurred had the rate for 1920 prevailed, and 54,942 fewer deaths than would have occurred if the 1911 rate had obtained.

The annual death rate in this selected group, from 1911 to 1920, has varied between 74 and 87 per cent of the rate in the registration area of the United States.

Marked declines in the mortality from tuberculosis, pneumonia, and influenza were, as in 1920, a large factor in the improvement noted in the total mortality. In a period of 11 years the death rate for tuberculosis has been almost cut in half. There were also declines in mortality from Bright's disease and organic heart disease.